Dear Jim, 8/6/78

Your judgement was correct on what you sent to Dave. What you describe as my "lectures" to Hoch, Policoff and Jerry Ray others may find other words for but there should be no censorship and my work and my opinions, even very hasty ones, ought be subject to any kind of critical examination.

If you have not heard from Dave by the time you get this I suppose it is because he has more time for being a parent when he is not in college. He spoke to me a few days ago. He had a couple of questions and he was a little concerned about what we might call diplomacy. I suggested he raise them with you because I am certain there is no problem. I don't want to appear to be making am mystery for there is none but he can do it much better than I.

I know there was one trip to take the kids to Minneapolis, I think, to the zoo there.

Now that you are working the thing out do you want to consider a ~~cook~~ cook book, "Cooking for One in Chinese"? You make it sound like great fun.

The Mongolian barbecue, where each does his own thing, must be real fun with congenial people. You say you had a special grill made years ago. It must be large for any amount of independent cooking.

In a way it may be something like the Latin American asado of years past if not of the age of women's lib. The men use to do that, all outside, and it became a social event. Although I have no independent recollection I am certain not many Latin men could get together and gree on even the seasoning.

The Chronicle story on the pix and sketches the assassins comitee turned out and the treatment are good to have. The attention around here was extensive on TV and scant in print press. In this case the print press judgement was good. It is a cheap publicity stunt to attract attention to the coming hearings. So was the leak to the Times, of which you sent their wire story as it appeared out there.

That story, around a shady type named Byers, came straight from the FBI. It appears to be relevant to nothing. Byers was in the corridor the same day as John Ray's second appeared in the star chamber.

It has not been too hot for July and August lately and we've been making out okay. The area is in its ninth day of rain and we are having our first good shower for more than nine days. The earth has been hard, slippery under leather soles. Lil, who is tired after putting up some squash, went to bed to take in British drama. She expressed the hope that it would rain this way all night. Amen. We have trees dropping leaves. While I like this weather when it is not too hot and sticky better than bitter cold, right now I look forward to the end of the chigger season. I've been staying away from their habitats but they find me - and I don't dare scratch through these expensive supports that take so long to get replaced. Related to your comment about the weather letting us enjoy the place, for the past several days we've had a special delight, a hummingbird that lingers. It has taken a fancy to the tiger lilies, which are loaded with bloom. It does not fly away when it sees us, either. But then the deer that walked up to outside the bedroom window to eat the tops off of Lil's egglants wasn't afraid, either. Lil was watching it rhough those large windows.

We've been lucky on the garden produce, having had to give almost all gardening up. A college professor friend threw himself into his gardening so lustily-and successfully - that they can't even can and freeze all of it. Our city guests have been pleased, too. We've become vistual vegetarians.

Thanks for the clips. When they are no problem for you they can have immediate and future value. Best,